



• INFO memo - July 2, 2004

City of Broken Arrow
P.O. Box 610
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
www.brokenarrowok.gov

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 259-8233

City Sets Holiday Schedule

With the 4th of July falling on a Sunday this year, City of Broken Arrow employees will take their Independence Day holiday on Monday, July 5.

City offices will be closed from 5 p.m. Friday through 8 a.m. Tuesday, although police and fire department personnel will be working. Public Works crews will be on standby for emergency situations in water, sewer, traffic light problems, etc.

There will be no curbside trash pickup on Monday. Those normally scheduled for Monday will have service Tuesday, and those normally having pickups on Tuesday will have service Wednesday.

The Community Center will be open Friday, Saturday and Monday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.), but closed to the public on Sunday due to a basketball tournament.

There will be special hours for the swimming pools this weekend as well. The Family Aquatic Center in Central Park will be open 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on both Sunday and Monday, while Country Aire pool will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday and 1 to 8 p.m. Monday.

New BA Ambulance ‘Fire Engine Red’

The red tape which required ambulances across the state to be painted the same color (white) has been cut and buried, and the Broken Arrow Fire Department quickly took advantage by introducing its new EMS unit...painted “Fire Engine Red.”

A recent decision did away with restrictions which kept ambulances in Oklahoma the same color scheme. Now EMS providers may paint their units in “a manner they deem appropriate,” says BAFD Interim Chief Greg Neely. And the Fire Department in Broken Arrow was seeing red – the first red EMS vehicle in the state.

Since 1972 the BAFD has been providing EMS (emergency medical service) to the community in addition to fire service. Even though the EMS was a division of the fire department, the State “soon began adopting regulations that restricted the color schemes of EMS units whether they belonged to the fire department or not,” said Neely.

With a branch of Saint Francis Hospital located in the heart of Broken Arrow, there are often ambulances from other communities making runs through the city. It will now be very easy to identify the BAFD units from those of other communities or companies.

"The Broken Arrow Fire Department provides Advanced Life Support with transport to its citizens," explained Neely, who worked with the Tulsa Fire Department before coming to BA. "The red color scheme will help our department establish and maintain the autonomy it desires.

"We have great respect for other EMS providers, but when the units all look alike, our organization can be confused with another EMS provider. The new red units will send a clear message that members of the BAFD are providing this very sophisticated level of service."

Through the City's regular replacement schedule, Broken Arrow intends to order new units in fire engine red.

Police Volunteers Honored

Broken Arrow Police Chief Todd Wuestewald didn't pull any punches: "Without you we could not provide the services we provide to this community."

Wuestewald was addressing many of the volunteers who assist the BAPD each year as they were honored at a program June 30 in the new Justice Center Courtroom. The room was packed with volunteers and BAPD personnel who came to show their appreciation for all those volunteers do throughout the year.

The Broken Arrow Police Department has a very strong volunteer organization of nearly 150 volunteers, who provide valuable human resource assistance to the Department year round. In 2003 those volunteers contributed 11,965 hours of services to the Police Department, which saved the City an estimated \$205,678.35. And, as Wuestewald explained, the total was probably even higher than that.

A "check" for that amount will be presented by volunteers to the City Council at its Tuesday night (July 6) meeting. Mayor Richard Carter spoke at the program and proclaimed it "Volunteers Week" in Broken Arrow.

The BAPD is a member of the President's Volunteer Service Award Program. Several of the volunteers honored at the program received bronze, silver and gold Presidential Award pins and certificates. These awards are based on the number of hours the individual volunteer served during the year. Preston Fassel, who donates his time and efforts to the Police Property Room, was recipient of bronze, silver and gold awards -- the latter requiring 500 hours or more.

Qualifying for silver pins were John Ross, Property Room and the Diversity Council; Ruby Gilliland, Headquarters; and Carolyn Curran, also Headquarters. Bronze pins went to Trinia Thomas, Bill Ricks, Barbara Hunt and Cheryl Fritz.

Margaret Page, who works with the Citizen's Police Academy and also is an assistant to Lisa Ford, director of the Volunteers Program, was honored.

Police Department Volunteers donate their time, experience and skills to the many facets of police service. They come from all walks of life to help the police department provide the best services possible to the community. Volunteers are truly appreciated for giving of themselves to make Broken Arrow great. Those being honored today have worked many hours in the following units or programs:

- · Volunteers in Policing (VIP)
- · DiVert
- · Reserve Police Officers
- · Chaplains
- · Animal Control Board
- · Animal Shelter
- · Diversity Council
- · Interpreter program

For more information on Volunteers in Policing contact Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Ford at 451-8213.

Ford to be Featured at Neighborhood Conference

Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist for the Broken Arrow Police Department, will be one of the featured presenters Aug. 20-21 at the Oklahoma Neighborhood Conference 2004 in Oklahoma City.

The Council of Neighborhoods will bring together representatives from Neighborhood Watch associations, city staff members, non-profit organizations and law enforcement agencies from throughout the state. They will have an opportunity to interact and share workshop training and “what works” in their home communities.

Awards will be given to neighborhood associations for their results in several areas, including partnerships, improvements, newsletters, youth service and the Oklahoma Neighborhood Hall of Fame.

Ferguson Praised by Chief Wuestewald

Sgt. Ed Ferguson has once been publicly praised by Broken Arrow Police Chief Todd Wuestewald for his “efforts to enhance roadway safety through your recent newspaper articles relating to motorcycle operation.”

Wuestewald said, in a letter to Ferguson, “As you pointed out, we have seen a spike in our serious motorcycle accidents this spring and summer, and I noted on the summary sheets that we had yet another major bike accident this weekend. Your articles in the paper were informative and will help raise public awareness of motorcycle safety.”

Ferguson and members of his Traffic Safety Unit have been honored several times during the past year.

“You have consistently assumed a leading role in traffic safety in Broken Arrow, throughout Northeastern Oklahoma and in the law enforcement profession,” said his chief. “You have optimized community leadership and professional excellence through your leadership in the Oklahoma Safe Communities Alliance, ongoing National Buckle-Up campaigns, local enforcement initiatives, educational programs at (Broken Arrow) the high school, sponsorship of national level traffic investigation classes, acquisition of traffic safety grants, submission of traffic related articles to professional journals, fatality investigations and many media educational efforts.”

Learn to Swim Program Enrolls 886

The Learn to Swim program for the City of Broken Arrow is nearing 900 students, reports Recreation Division Manager Claudia Dyer.

The third of four two-week sessions begins Monday at the old Central Pool in Central Park. Dyer and Registration Director Krystal Ridenour said that 886 patrons had signed up thus far.

Dyer also reported that, despite the cooler temperatures and rain on half the days in the month, there were 12,183 patrons at the Family Aquatic Center in June and 2,658 at Country Aire pool.

The average take for concessions at the FAC was over \$300 per day, and a new feature will be added starting next week: Blue Bell ice cream.

City Prepares for Visitors in July

The month of July has traditionally been one of the busiest in Broken Arrow for visitors, most of them coming to town for youth sports tournaments.

One of the most prestigious events again this summer will be the “Drums of Summer” competition at Broken Arrow High School July 7. Some of the top teams in the nation will be performing at Memorial Stadium. The Cavaliers of Rosemont, Il., will be back to defend their championship. Mayor Richard Carter has proclaimed next week “Drum Corps International Week” in Broken Arrow. The event is hosted by the Broken Arrow Band Parents.

Broken Arrow Youth Baseball will be hosting local and national tournaments at Indian Springs Sports Complex starting July 10, and the Broken Arrow Girls Softball League hosts several major tournaments at the Arrowhead Park Softball Complex. One of those is the American Fastpitch Association 12-under Nationals July 27 through Aug. 1. That meet was moved here from Owasso due to problems.

City Parks & Recreation employees are involved in preparing and caring for these sports facilities, which are considered some of the best in the nation.